Library

ANNUAL REPORT

on the

PUBLIC HEALTH

and

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

of the

Halstead Rural District

For the Year 1954

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by

Dr. J. S. RANSON
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health

and

HAROLD NIELD
A.M.I.S.E., M.S.I.A., M.R.SAN I.,
Sanitary Officer

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HALSTEAD

Halstead Rural District Council

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Report on the

PUBLIC HEALTH & SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE HALSTEAD RURAL DISTRICT

for the year 1954

By DR. J. S. RANSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE,
HALSTEAD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

This report on the Health and Vital Statistics of the District for the year 1954 is laid out on the lines laid down in the Ministry of Health's Circular No. 28/54.

This year has again been one of good health and apart from the 109 cases of whooping cough notified the number of cases of infectious disease has been exceptionally low.

During the year the installation of the first stage of the Council's scheme for supplying the District with water was almost completed and the completion of the second stage is now in hand. It remains to be seen to what extent this will necessitate installation of plants for sewage disposal beyond those that have already been decided upon. Experience has shown that the provision of piped water supplies very greatly increases the amount of water used, with, of course, a corresponding increase in the volume of the sewage to be disposed. Therefore it must be borne in mind that within the next few years disposal plants for every village will become very probably an urgent necessity.

Fifty Council houses have been built during the year including 14 bungalows for old persons. These bungalows serve a most useful purpose and more are required. When it is known that life in advancing years can be greatly simplified by living in a bungalow with modern amenities, many tenants of the Council houses will ask for transfers. Old persons living in the worst type cottage will also wish to move and their removal will afford the Council a great opportunity to raise the general housing standard by having the cottages vacated either thoroughly reconstructed or demolished.

Reconstruction with and without the aid of a grant has been carried on during the year and 184 houses were dealt with and brought up to the full standard of the Council's requirements under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954. The Council must prepare a scheme to deal with all of their worst house property. The considerable amount of work of reconstruction carried out in the last ten years has very much modified this problem. Difficulty is always met in any scheme by the necessity of rehousing tenants who usually must be rehoused in Council houses. Any cut in the number of such houses permitted to be built will necessarily add to this difficulty.

It has been suggested that some Councils might purchase sub-standard property with a view to patching them for occupation for a limited number of years. The average standard of property in the District is now in my opinion in such a state that this procedure, at any time undesirable, will not necessitate any such action in this District.

The death rate is slightly lower than that for 1953 and the birth rate remains about the same. Deaths of infants under one year of age are higher than usual, the figure being raised by five such deaths from congenital malformation.

With regard to cases of infectious disease notified there has been no noteworthy outbreak except that of whooping cough. Immunisation against this disease is still being carried out and it is anticipated that as with diphtheria its occurrence may in the future be almost eliminated. The response to these immunisations remains exceedingly good, very few children now remaining unprotected.

My thanks are once again due to members of the Council and the Staff for their help and consideration that I have received during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your sincere servant,

J. S. Lawson.

Medical Officer of Health.

1. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

				Halstead R.D.C.	England and Wales
Area (in acres)				76,637	
Population (Registrar General's estimate)				16,920	
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1954) according to the Rate Books				5,575	
Rateable Value (at 1.4.54) £63,398 (at 1.4.55) £64,649					
Sum represented by a penny rate				£254 17 1	
		Total	Male	Female	
Live Births	Legitimate:—	209	114	95	
	Illegitimate:—	11	5	6	
Still Births		8	5	3	
Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population				13.0	15.2
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 (live and stillbirths)				35.5	24.0
Deaths (Registrar General's estimate) ...				211	
Death rate per 1,000 resident population ...				12.4	11.3
(Death rate corrected by comparability figure of 0.74)				9.4	
Death of infants under one year of age ...				12	
Death rate of infants under one year of age (per 1,000 live births)				54.5	25.5
Death rate of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births				52.6	
Death rate of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births				125.0	

Deaths at Various Age Groups

(Registered and Transferred)

Age Group	Registered	No. of Deaths Transferred
Under one year	1	11
1 and under 2 years	—	1
2 and under 5 years	—	—
5 and under 15 years	—	—
15 and under 25 years	—	2
25 and under 35 years	1	1
35 and under 45 years	3	2
45 and under 55 years	4	7
55 and under 65 years	12	9
65 and under 75 years	29	20
75 years and upwards	66	42
Totals ...	116	95

DEATHS FROM VARIOUS CAUSES

(Registrar General's Figures)

	Male	Female
Syphilitic disease	—	2
Tubereulosis (Respiratory)	1	—
Tuberculosis (Non-respiratory)	—	1
Diphtheria	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Influenza	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	—
Cancer	14	19
Leukaemia	—	—
Diabetes	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	18	25
Coronary disease	14	13
Hypertension with heart disease	3	2
Other heart disease	11	16
Other cireulatory disease	11	3
Pneumonia	5	1
Bronchitis	—	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	—
Gastritis and diarrhœa	—	2
Nephritis	—	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—
Congenital malformation	3	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	11	13
Motor vehiele aecidents	2	1
All other accidents	5	2
Suieide	1	—
Homicide	—	—
Totals ...	106	105

2. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Infectious Disease—Cases Notified:

	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital
Infeetious Jaundiec ...	—	—
Measles ...	6	—
Pneumonia ...	2	—
Poliomyelitis ...	3	3
Scarlet Fever ...	2	—
Whooping Cough ...	109	—
Food Poisoning ...	2	—
Erysipelas ...	1	—
Dysentery ...	1	—
Totals ...	126	3

Tubereulosis—Cases Notified:

Age Periods	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1 year ...	—	—	—	—
1 and under 5 years	—	—	—	—
5 and under 10 years	—	—	—	—
10 and under 15 years	—	—	—	—
15 and under 20 years	—	—	—	—
20 and under 25 years	—	—	—	—
25 and under 35 years	1	1	—	—
35 and under 45 years	1	1	—	—
45 and under 55 years	—	—	—	—
55 and under 65 years	—	—	—	—
65 years and upwards	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	2	2	Nil	Nil

1 transfer from other District.

Deaths from Tuberculosis:

Pulmonary	Male	1
	Female	—
Non-Pulmonary . .	Male	—
	Female	—
	Total	1

Food Poisoning Notifications 2

Report on the

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE HALSTEAD RURAL DISTRICT

for the year 1954

By HAROLD NIELD, A.M.I.S.E., M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.
Sanitary Officer

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF
THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE,
HALSTEAD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the Sanitary Circumstances of the District and the work of the Sanitary Department for the year ended 31st December, 1954.

The report is brief and consists mainly of statistics required by the Sanitary Officers Order and Regulations. It does indicate the wide and varied field covered by the term "sanitation," how the work of the Department has rapidly increased, and the extent of the sanitary improvements secured during the year.

Much explanatory comment on these statistics could be made but it has been omitted for the sake of brevity in accordance with the wishes of the Committee.

1. STAFF.

Sanitary Officer	HAROLD NIELD, A.M.I.S.E., M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I. Incorporated Sanitary Engineer.
Additional Sanitary Inspectors	WILLIAM L. C. PROUD, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.
	MONTAGUE E. ROUSELL, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.
Clerk Typist	MISS MARY A. BECKWITH
General Assistant	NEVILLE E. CUTTS

2. FOOD.

(a) Food Premises Inspections

Details of food premises in the District, and of inspections made by the Sanitary Department regarding the food therein, the hygiene of the processes, and the structure and cleanliness of the premises were:—

Type of Food Premises	No. in District	No. of Inspections
Bakehouses	10	34
Egg Packing & Liquid Egg Preparation Premises	2	2
Fish Fryers	2	14
Game Dealers' Premises (Licensed)	1	4
General Provision Shops	77	43
Ice Cream Premises (Registered)	53	44
Meat Products Premises (Registered) ...	14	65
Meat Shops	14	194
Public Houses and Inns	72	160
Restaurants and Cafes	9	55
Slaughterhouses	2	172
Street Vendors	—	25
Miscellaneous	—	49
Totals ...	256	861

Food premises fully surveyed	104
Food poisoning investigations	5
Informal notices served	67
Food premises improved	44
Food vehicles improved	2

(b) Food Premises Improvements

	Structural Works	Decorations and Cleaning	Lighting and Ventilation	Cold Water Supply	Hot Water Supply	Washing Facilities	Refuse Storage Facilities	Drainage	Sanitary Accommodation	Total
Bakehouses	1	6	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	9
Dairies	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	4
Egg & Poultry Packing Premises	1	1	1	1	1	1	—	1	2	9
Fish Shops and Fish Fryers	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	5
General Provision Shops	—	6	—	2	1	2	—	—	—	11
Ice Cream Premises ...	—	5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	6
Meat Products Premises	3	4	3	—	3	3	—	—	—	16
Meat Shops	1	5	1	1	1	1	—	1	—	11
Public Houses and Inns	3	9	2	2	6	7	—	5	5	39
Restaurants and Cafes	1	2	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	6
Slaughterhouses ...	2	2	2	—	2	2	2	—	—	12
Food Vehicles ...	—	1	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	4
TOTALS	14	44	11	7	18	18	4	8	8	132

Several owners of food premises have intimated their readiness to provide hot and cold water supply on public water mains becoming available.

(c) **Unsatisfactory Conditions found at the 72 Public Houses and Inns in the District fully surveyed.**

Structural condition and repair	23
Decoration and cleanliness	16
Lighting and ventilation	8
Cold water supply	42
Hot water supply	49
Washing facilities	37
Refuse storage facilities	5
Drainage	32
Sanitary accommodation	52
TOTAL	264

(d) **Unsound Food**

Only one case of unsound food being exposed for sale was found, but it was not necessary to make any seizures of food. Vendors co-operated very satisfactorily in reporting suspected food, which resulted in the following commodities being voluntarily surrendered:—

Beef	167lbs.
Pork	582lbs.
Mutton	132lbs.
Poultry	6lbs.
Total	887lbs.

(e) **Post-mortem Inspection of Animals**

The meat inspection duties of the Department were greatly increased during the year by the abolition of meat rationing and the opening of private slaughterhouses in July. Two slaughterhouses were licensed by the Council during the year and each was used for meat supplies to a number of local butchers. Slaughtering was carried out on five days per week including Saturday afternoons and Sunday mornings. One slaughterhouse was licensed by the Ministry of Food as a Deadweight Certification Centre under the Ministry of Food Fatstock Guarantee Scheme and the Council's Sanitary Officer was appointed Certifying Officer therefor.

The co-operation of the Ministry of Food Local Executive Officer in notifying to the Sanitary Department details of licences issued by him under the "Self-Suppliers Pigs Scheme" was again appreciated. This facilitated the work of the Sanitary Department in examining pigs slaughtered locally.

Details of post-mortem inspection of animals were:—

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Goats	Pigs
No. Killed (Estimated)	100	5	7	266	1	302
No. Inspected	85	2	5	195	1	209
All diseases except Tuberculosis						
(a) Whole carcases condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	2	Nil	5
(b) Carcases of which some part or organ condemned ...	6	1	Nil	6	Nil	21
(c) Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	7.06	50	Nil	4.1	Nil	12.4
Tuberculosis only						
(a) Whole carcases condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Carcases of which some part or organ condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(c) Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

The figures in the above tables are in respect of animals inspected during or shortly after slaughter. In cases where inspection was impossible on account of pressure of other work the carcases were inspected in the butchers shops on the following day. Thus 100 per cent. of inspection of meat, though not of slaughtering, was carried out. This was only possible on account of meat slaughtered in the District being sold by local butchers.

Licensed Slaughtermen 16.

(f) Milk and Dairies

	No. in District	No. of Inspections
Registered Dairy Premises	6	25
Registered Distributors of Milk	6	17
Licensed Dealers of Tuberculin Tested Milk	5	15
Licensed Dealers of Pasteurised Milk ...	6	12
Licensed Dealers with Supplementary Licence to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk ...	13	13
Licensed Dealers with Supplementary Licence to sell Pasteurised Milk	13	8
Totals ...	49	90

Grade of Milk	Number of Samples	Number Satisfactory	Number Unsatisfactory
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) ...	7	7	—
Tuberculin Tested ...	4	4	—
Pasteurised	14	14	—
Undesignated	7	6	1
Totals ...	32	31	1

The unsatisfactory sample was followed up and subsequent samples taken were satisfactory.

(g) **Ice Cream**

Ministry of Health Provisional Grade	No. of Ice Cream Samples	Bacteriological Classification	No. of Ice Cream Samples
I	8	Excellent	2
II	1	V. Satisfactory	3
III	—	Satisfactory	2
IV	—	Fair	2
		Unsatisfactory	—
	Total 9		Total 9

Bacteriological Classification	No. of "Iced Lolly" Samples
Excellent	5
V. Satisfactory	1
Satisfactory	6
Fair	2
Unsatisfactory	1
	Total 15

(h) The County Council as Food and Drugs Authority were responsible for the taking of samples for Chemical analysis of food and drugs, milk, ice cream, etc., but details of such sampling were not notified to the Rural District Council.

3. WATER.

None of the existing supplies were treated by chlorination or softening, although chlorinating apparatus was available for use as necessary at the Council's Earls Colne Undertaking.

As a routine procedure samples of the Castle Hedingham and Earls Colne mains water supplies were submitted for laboratory examination monthly, and samples of all other mains water supplies quarterly.

During the year the following work was carried out by the Sanitary Department:—

(a) Inspections regarding water supplies 196

(b) Informal Notices served re water supplies .. 51

(c) Premises connected to water mains following informal action 31

(d) Wells improved following informal action ... 5

(e) Samples of water submitted for bacteriological and chemical examination Details of these are given in the following table 95

Source	No. of Samples	Wholesome	Below Standard
Public Water Mains ...	32	29	3
Private Water Mains ..	46	42	4
Public Wells, etc. ..	5	2	3
Private Wells, etc. ..	12	4	8
Totals ...	95	77	18

The unsatisfactory samples from public and private water mains were investigated and sources of contamination determined. Remedial action taken resulted in the supplies being made satisfactory.

Constructional work on the Council's Comprehensive District Water Scheme continued during the year, and a copy of the latest laboratory report on a sample of the water is appended.

Chemical Results in Parts Per Million

Appearance. Opalescent with a very slight deposit. Microscopic examination shows amorphous iron hydroxide.

Colour filtered:	Nil	Turbidity	7
pH	7.1	Odour	Slight chlorinous
Electric Conductivity ..	1020	Free Carbon Dioxide ...	36
		Total Solids	680
Chlorine present as Chloride	108	Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	315
Hardness: Total 440	Carbonate 315	Non-carbonate	125
Nitrate Nitrogen	0.0	Nitrite Nitrogen less than ...	0.01
Ammoniacal Nitrogen † ...	0.40	Oxygen Absorbed	0.10
Albuminoid Nitrogen † ...	0.000	Residual Chlorine	0.20

Metals Iron: 0.60, Manganese: less than 0.03, other metals absent.

† To convert to Ammonia multiply by 1.21.

Bacteriological Results

Number of Colonies developing on Agar	1 day at 37 C 2 per ml. Present in	2 days at 37 C 2 per ml. Absent from	3 days at 20 C ... per ml. Probable number
Presumptive Coli-aerogenes Reaction	- ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Bact. coli. (Type I) ...	— ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction	ml.	... ml.	

This sample shows opalescence and slight deposit associated with the trace of iron which is present. The water is neutral in reaction and free from other metals. It is very hard in character but contains no excess of mineral of saline constituents. Its organic quality and bacterial purity are of a high standard.

These results are indicative of a water which is pure and wholesome in character and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

4. HOUSING

(a) Housing Inspections

(1)	Inspections regarding disrepair and sanitary defects ..	855
(2)	Houses fully surveyed and recorded	103
(3)	Inspections regarding re-conditioning	218
(4)	Inspections regarding overcrowding	14
(5)	Investigations of Applications for Council house tenancies ...	11

(b) Housing Notices

(1)	Informal Notices served requiring remedy of disrepair and sanitary defects	54
(2)	Statutory Notices served under Section 9, Housing Act, 1936	Nil
(3)	Statutory Notices served under Section 93, Public Health Act, 1936, requiring remedy of housing disrepair	Nil
(4)	Certificates of Disrepair granted (Housing Repairs and Rent Act, 1954)	Nil

Property owners responded satisfactorily to informal procedure requesting the repair and improvement of dwelling houses and their co-operation was appreciated.

(c) Unfit Houses—Section 11, Housing Act, 1936

(1)	Houses Officially Represented under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936	24
(2)	Demolition Orders made	18
(3)	Undertakings accepted (a) to repair or recondition	Nil
	(b) not to use for human habitation	10
(4)	Accumulated total of outstanding Demolition Orders (December, 1954)	67
(5)	Accumulated total of outstanding Undertakings (Dec., 1954)	
	(a) to make fit for human habitation	17
	(b) not to use for human habitation	50

(d) Housing Improvements

(1)	Houses reconditioned or repaired following informal action by the Sanitary Department	184
(2)	Houses fully reconditioned to the "Twelve Point Standard"	43
(3)	Houses repaired following Statutory notices under Section 9, Housing Act, 1936	Nil
(4)	Houses repaired following Statutory notices under Section 93, Public Health Act, 1936	Nil
(5)	Houses repaired or reconditioned following Statutory undertaking under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936	5
(6)	Houses demolished following Statutory Demolition Orders under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936	9

(e) Housing Improvement Grants

Applications for Improvement Grants	19
Improvement Grants approved (for £4,093 10s.)	18
Loans Made by Council for Repairing or Improving Houses	Nil

(f) Housing Overcrowding

Overcrowding houses existing December, 1953 .	13
Overcrowded houses found during 1954	4
Overcrowded houses relieved 1954	7
Overcrowded houses existing December, 1954 (Including 5 Council houses)	10

(g) **Moveable Dwellings**

Licensed Camping Grounds (for 58 trailer caravans) ...	1
Inspections of Camping Grounds	25
Licensed Moveable Dwellings	19
Inspections of Moveable Dwellings	90
Informal Notices served re Moveable Dwellings	Nil

Every caravan on the licensed camping ground is provided with piped mains water supply and main drainage to a camp disposal plant.

5. WORKPLACES

(a) **Inspections and Notices**

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Written notices	Number of Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	8	7	3	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	52	34	7	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total ...	60	41	10	Nil

Certificates of Means of Escape in case of fire granted ... Nil

(b) **Defects found and Remedied**

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found: Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	7	3	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2.) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	2	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ...	1	—	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	1	3	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total: ...	11	6	—	1	—

(c) **Out-Workers**

Nature of Outwork	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sec. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel —Making, etc., ...	6	—	—	—	—	—

(d) **Miscellaneous**

Premises	No. in district	Inspections
Places of Entertainment	28	5
Shops	105	242
Workplaces	10	2
Schools	23	11

Certificates of Exemption granted (shops) . ... Nil

6. WASTE MATTERS.

(a) **Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.**

Public Sewerage and Sewage Disposal was part of the duties of the Council's Surveyor s Department.

Of the 39 Parishes in the District seven (Castle Hedingham, Colne Engaine, Earls Colne, Foxearth, Sible Hedingham, Steeple Bumpstead and part of White Colne) had public sewers, and four (Earls Colne, Sible Hedingham, Steeple Bumpstead and part of White Colne) public sewage disposal works.

Schemes for the Parishes of Castle Hedingham, Gosfield, Great Yeldham, Ridgewell, Sible Hedingham, and a joint scheme for the Parish of Bures Hamlet with Bures St. Mary (Melford Rural District Council) have been prepared, and a scheme for Colne Engaine is in course of preparation by the Consulting Engineers. The following Parishes have been placed in order of priority as being in need of sewerage and sewage disposal schemes in the near future:—Greenstead Green (Halstead Rural), Foxearth, Belchamp St. Paul, Wickham St. Paul, Pebmarsh and Toppesfield. Also in need of such schemes:—Ashen, Birdbrook, Great Maplestead, Gestingthorpe, Helions Bumpstead and Sturmer. Extensions to the existing schemes are needed at Earls Colne, Steeple Bumpstead and White Colne.

No new works of sewerage or sewage disposal or important additions to existing works were carried out during the year.

Fourteen inspections were made by the Sanitary Department of public sewers and sewer ditches following complaints, and certain unsatisfactory conditions such as blockages, need of cleansing, etc., were remedied.

(b) **Drainage.**

Drainage was part of the duties of the Sanitary Department.

There is no scheme for emptying cesspools or sewage tanks in the District (except at Council houses), householders being left to make their own arrangements with private contractors.

Details of drainage to properties in the District are:—

Total Properties	Properties drained to:			Properties without drainage
	Sewers or Highway Drains	Sewage tanks or Cesspools	Ditches etc.	
6132 (100%)	1774 (28.9%)	1780 (29.0%)	1337 (21.8%)	1241 (20.3%)

(i) Drainage Duties

1. Plans examined regarding drainage proposals ... 140
2. Drainage investigations and advisory visits ... 143
3. Drainage inspections 603
4. Inspection of ditches 49
5. Drainage smoke tests 95
6. Informal notices served 62

(ii) Drainage Improvements

As a result of informal action by the Sanitary Department, the following improvements were effected:—

1. Premises drained to public sewers 24
2. Premises drained to septic tanks 52
3. Drains reconstructed 32
4. Drains cleansed 8
5. Ditches cleansed 5

(c) **Sanitary Fittings**

There is a great need in the District for the conversion of privy and earth closets into water closets, and for the provision of sinks and baths to dwellings.

Details of sanitary fittings of properties in the District are:—

Total Properties	Properties with:					
	Sanitary Conveniences				Sinks	Baths
	W.C's	E.C's.	Privies	None		
6132 (100%)	2531 (41.2%)	3502 (57.2%)	22 (.4%)	77 (1.2%)	4711 (76.8%)	2044 (33.3%)

During the year 250 inspections regarding sanitary conveniences were carried out and 55 informal notices served.

As a result of informal action by the Sanitary Department the following improvements were effected:—

1.	Privy conversions	21
2.	Sanitary conveniences reconstructed	9
3.	New sanitary conveniences provided	44
4.	Sinks provided	35
5.	Baths provided	29

(d) Refuse Storage and Disposal

Public cleansing was part of the duties of the Council's Surveyor's Department. The Council possessed two refuse collecting vehicles and undertook the removal of house refuse at fortnightly intervals in the Parishes of Castle Hedingham, Earls Colne, Sible Hedingham and White Colne, and contracted for the removal of night soil and refuse in the Parish of Bures Hamlet. In the remaining Parishes the Council removed tins and salvage at approximately monthly intervals. Refuse and tins were disposed of on refuse dumps at Great Yeldham, Sible Hedingham, Steeple Bumpstead and White Colne, and by making up land at the request of farmers, etc., in various parts of the District.

Two inspections of refuse tips, and 43 inspections regarding refuse accumulations were made. Six informal notices were served.

As a result of action by the Sanitary Department 8 accumulations of refuse were removed

7. PESTS

The District continued to be comparatively free from vermin infestation. No premises were found with bed bug infestations. A total of 31 inspections were made by the Sanitary Department in connection with vermin, and 24 premises were disinfested.

There was also no unduly high incidence of rat and mice infestations in the District. The Council's public sewers and refuse dumps were rat disinfested as a routine measure in accordance with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries requirements.

Details of Rodent Control work carried out by the Sanitary Department during the year were:—

	Type of Property				
	Non-Agricultural				
	1 Local Authority	2 Dwelling Houses (Inc. Council Houses)	3 All other (Inc. Business Premises)	4 Total of Cols. (1) (2) & (3)	5 Agricultural
I. Number of properties in Local Authorities District	16	5575	356	5947	447
II. Number of properties inspected as a result of:					
(a) Notification	Nil	11	4	15	2
(b) Survey under the Act	1	20	66	87	6
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose) ...	10	114	125	249	27
III. Total inspections carried out — including re-inspections	13	207	203	423	59
IV. Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by					
(a) Rats Major	Nil	9	28	37	2
Minor	Nil	29	27	56	4
(b) Mice Major	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Minor	Nil	4	1	5	Nil
V. Number of infested properties treated by Local Authority ...	Nil	22	35	57	Nil
VI. Total treatments carried out — including re-treatments	Nil	59	53	112	2
VII. Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act					
(a) Treatment	Nil	2	3	5	4
(b) Structural work	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1
VIII. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Section 4 of the Act	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
IX. Legal proceedings ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
X. Number of "Block" control schemes carried	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

8. MISCELLANEOUS

The following miscellaneous duties were also carried out by the Sanitary Department during the year:—

(a)	Plans deposited under Building Byelaws examined	140
(b)	Smoke and dust nuisance investigations	5
(c)	Keeping of animals and poultry nuisance investigations ...	16
(d)	Rivers (Prevention of Pollution) investigations	15
(e)	Notifiable disease investigations	—
(f)	Premises disinfected following notifiable diseases	4
(g)	Visits regarding miscellaneous sanitary matters	16
(h)	Bathing pool water samples taken	—

The following special reports were submitted to the Council by the Sanitary Officer during the year:—

1. Slaughtering Facilities on the De-control of Meat and Livestock.
2. Groups of Houses, etc., with unsatisfactory Water Supplies not to be served by the Council's District Water Scheme.
3. Water Supplies in the Pebmarsh Road Area, Twinstead.
4. Improvement Grants from the Public Health aspect.
5. The Repair, Improvement and Conversion of Houses—Financial loans —from the Public Health aspect.

In conclusion I would like to express my thanks to members of the Public Health Committee for their confidence and help during the year, and to officers of the Council for their co-operation. May I also record my appreciation to the members of my staff for their assistance and loyalty in carrying out our onerous duties in a tactful and impartial manner.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

Sanitary Officer.